

2007 Indiana Deer Season Summary

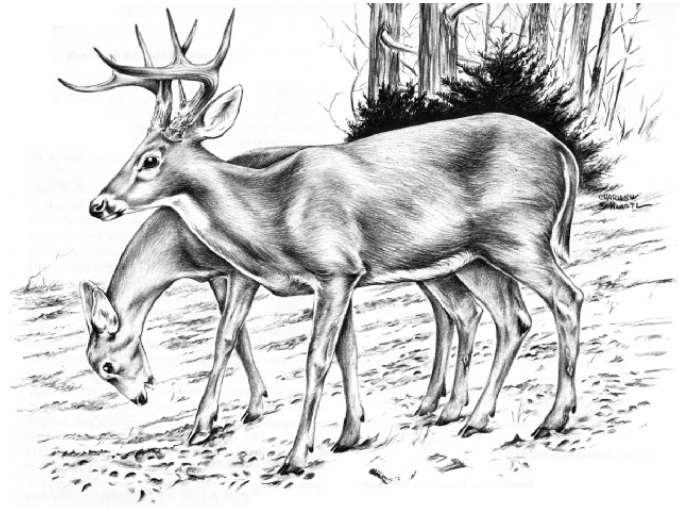


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General

The 2007 Indiana deer hunting season was comprised of four seasons: Early Archery (Oct. 1 to Dec. 2), Firearms (Nov. 17 to Dec. 2), Muzzleloader (Dec. 8-23), and Late Archery (Dec. 8 to Jan. 6). Additionally, there was a youth-only season Sept. 29-30 that was open to youth age 15 or younger who was accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old. The youth could take one additional antlerless deer during this special season.

The statewide archery bag limit was two deer. Hunters could take one deer per license for a total of either two antlerless deer or one antlered and one antlerless deer. A hunter could take only one antlered deer during all statewide seasons combined using archery, firearm, or muzzleloader licenses. This was the 11th year the crossbow was legal for hunting by non-handicapped hunters under an archery license. The crossbow was eligible for use only during the late archery season and could be used for deer of either sex.



Archers could harvest deer in designated urban zones that did not count towards any other statewide bag limit. Each extra urban zone deer required a separate additional archery license. The archery season in the urban deer zone opened two weeks prior to the opening of the early archery season (Sept. 15 to Dec. 2), and continued again into January (Dec. 8 to Jan. 6). Archers were allowed to harvest either four antlerless deer or three antlerless and one antlered deer during this period. Any deer harvested during this period were in addition to all other bag limits.

The bag limit during firearms season was one antlered deer, and the bag limit for the muzzleloader season was one either sex deer (maximum of one antlered deer harvested per hunter). A single firearms license was required to hunt with any or all shotgun, muzzleloader, or handgun during the firearms season, and a muzzleloader license (separate from the firearms license) was required to hunt during the muzzleloader season.

The resident deer license fee was \$24 and the nonresident fee was \$150. When an agricultural advantage could be gained, resident landowners who hunted on land they own were exempt from purchasing deer licenses, as were lessees.

Special public hunts were held at Muscatatuck and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuges, Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, and Naval Support Activity-Crane.

Bonus Antlerless Permits

An unlimited number of bonus antlerless permits were available at every deer license vendor statewide, and each permit could be used in any county. County bag limits ranged from A to 8 (Figure 1). Permits were available to both resident and non-resident hunters.

Each permit was valid for one antlerless deer, and hunters were allowed to take as many bonus antlerless deer as desired, as long as the county antlerless bag limits were observed.

Bonus antlerless permits cost \$24 and \$125 for the first permit for residents and nonresidents, respectively. The second and each additional permit was \$15 for residents and \$24 for nonresidents. Bonus antlerless permits could be used during all deer hunting seasons except for “A”-designated counties, where the license could only be used during the last four days of the firearms season (Nov. 29 to Dec. 2) plus the late archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Number of Deer Harvested

A total of 124,427 deer were legally harvested in Indiana during the 2007 season (Figure 2).

This harvest was <1% lower than the 125,381 deer harvested during the 2006 season. The antlered deer harvest of 49,375 represented a <1% increase from the 49,097 harvested last year. The antlerless harvest of 75,052 was 1.6% less than the 76,284 harvested in 2006. This is the second consecutive year the total deer harvest decreased from the previous hunting season, but 2007 still ranked third overall in total deer harvest.



Figure 1. Antlerless deer bag limits in 2007.

Approximately 2.46 million deer have been legally harvested during the past 56 deer hunting seasons in Indiana.

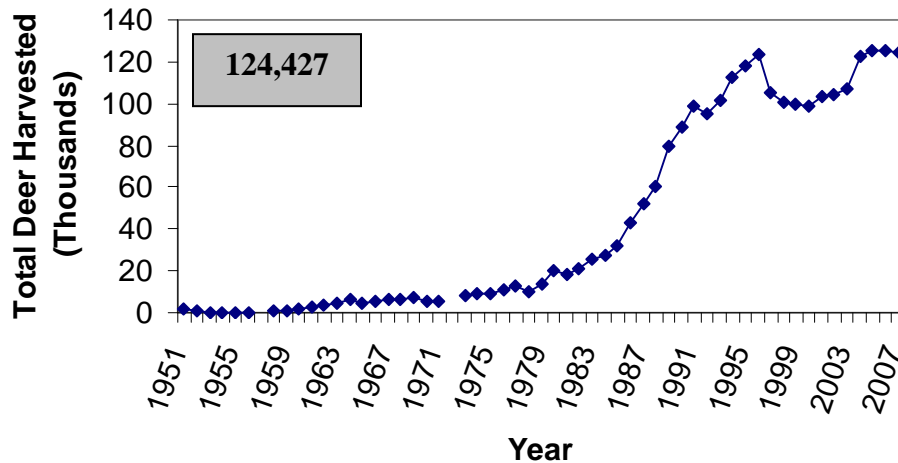


Figure 2. The number of deer harvested in Indiana deer hunting seasons 1951-2007.

The hunting season began with urban deer zones (Sept. 15) followed by a youth only weekend (Sept. 29-30). This season was created in 2006 and allowed youths 15 years and younger to harvest one antlerless deer. A total of 1,194 deer were harvested in 2007 during this season, up 1.6% from the 1,175 from 2006. This season resulted in 1% of the total harvest (Table 1). Less than 20% of the harvest was comprised of button bucks (Figure 3).

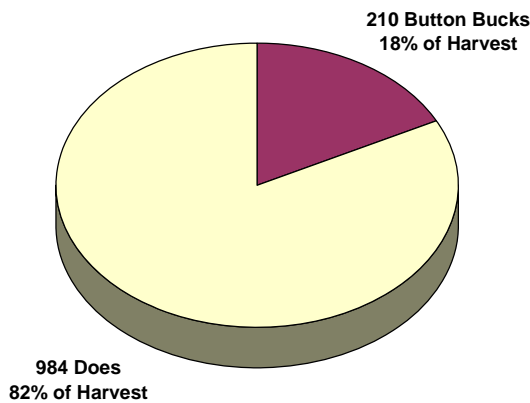


Figure 3. 2007 Youth Season harvest composition.

(Table 1). The late archery season comprised 1% of the total harvest, similar to the 2006 season. The combined archery seasons yielded 26,643 deer, a decrease of 3% from the 27,418 harvested in 2006. Antlerless deer comprised 62.5% of the total archery harvest, a slight decrease from the 65% from 2006. Antlerless harvest in early archery season was 61%, while in late archery it was 83% (Figure 4). Does made up over 50% of the total harvest in early archery season and 70% of the harvest in late archery season.

The early archery season harvest (including the early Urban Deer Zones) of 25,084 deer comprised 20% of the total harvest and was 3% less than the 25,962 harvested in 2006



Youth hunters continued their success in 2007

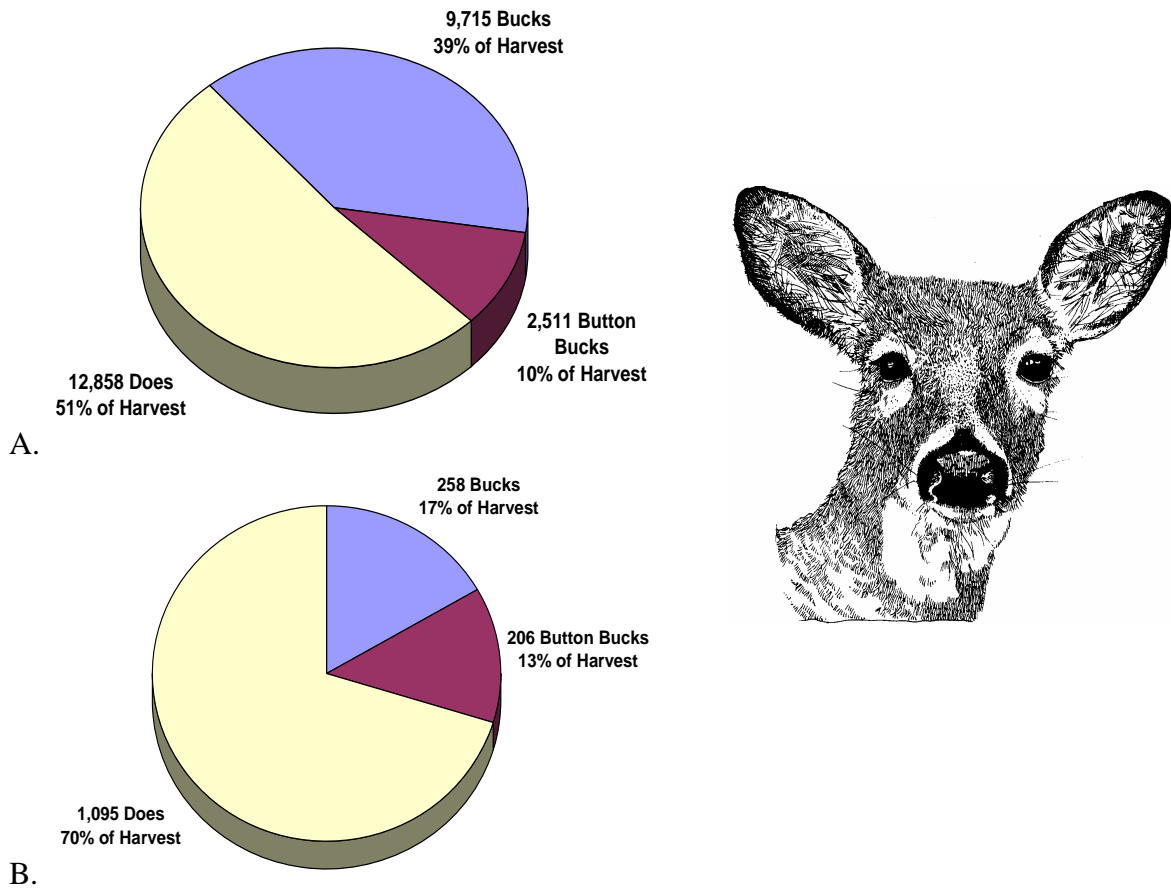


Figure 4. A. Early Archery harvest and B. Late Archery harvest composition in 2007

Table 1. Number of deer harvested in each segment of the 2007 Indiana deer hunting season. Percent of total harvest in parentheses (totals may not be exactly 100 due to rounding).

Season	Number of deer harvested		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Youth season* (Sept. 29-30)	0	1,194 (2)	1,194 (1)
Early Archery** (Oct. 1 – Dec. 2)	9,715 (20)	15,369 (20)	25,084 (20)
Firearms (Nov. 17 – Dec. 2)	36,138 (73)	44,524 (59)	80,662 (65)
Muzzleloader (Dec. 8 – 23)	3,256 (7)	12,672 (17)	15,928 (13)
Late Archery (Dec. 8 – Jan. 6)	258 (1)	1,301 (2)	1,559 (1)
Totals	49,367	75,060	124,427

*Antlerless deer season only

**Includes the early Urban Deer Zone starting Sept. 15

The firearms season harvest of 80,662 deer was nearly identical to the 80,661 deer harvested in 2006 and comprised 65% of the total harvest (Table 1). Antlerless harvest (44,524) and antlered harvest (36,138) for this season were nearly identical to the 2006 antlerless and antlered harvest of 44,566 and 36,095, respectively. Antlered deer made up over half of the total harvest on the opening weekend, while antlerless deer outnumbered antlered deer in harvest 2:1 during the last nine days of the season (Table 2). Over 48% of the total firearm season harvest (32% of the statewide total harvest for all seasons) occurred during opening weekend (Nov. 17-18), which is 4 percentage points higher than 2006 for both the firearm harvest and the total harvest. Antlerless deer comprised 55% (81% of which were does) of the firearm season harvest (Figure 5).

Table 2. Number of deer harvested on each day of the 2007 Indiana firearm season (includes deer taken by bow, shotgun, pistol, and muzzleloader.

Date	Day	Antlered		Antlerless		Total	
		N	Daily %	N	Daily %	N	Total %
17 November	Sat	14,470	55	11,835	45	26,305	33
18 November	Sun	6,563	51	6,353	49	12,916	16
19 November	Mon	1,844	50	1,881	50	3,725	5
20 November	Tue	1,120	45	1,360	55	2,480	3
21 November	Wed	674	47	761	53	1,435	2
22 November	Thu	1,546	44	1,998	56	3,544	4
23 November	Fri	2,431	37	4,071	63	6,502	8
24 November	Sat	2,216	33	4,515	67	6,731	8
25 November	Sun	1,268	33	2,575	67	3,843	5
26 November	Mon	269	34	526	66	795	1
27 November	Tue	445	34	871	66	1,316	2
28 November	Wed	356	28	926	72	1,282	2
29 November	Thu	343	29	832	71	1,175	1
30 November	Fri	487	28	1,253	72	1,740	2
1 December	Sat	1,499	29	3,691	71	5,190	6
2 December	Sun	500	30	1,173	70	1,673	2
Totals*		36,031		44,621		80,652	

* Totals differ from those in previous table because date of harvest is not known for some registered deer and this table includes deer from both the firearms season and the last 16 days of the early archery season.

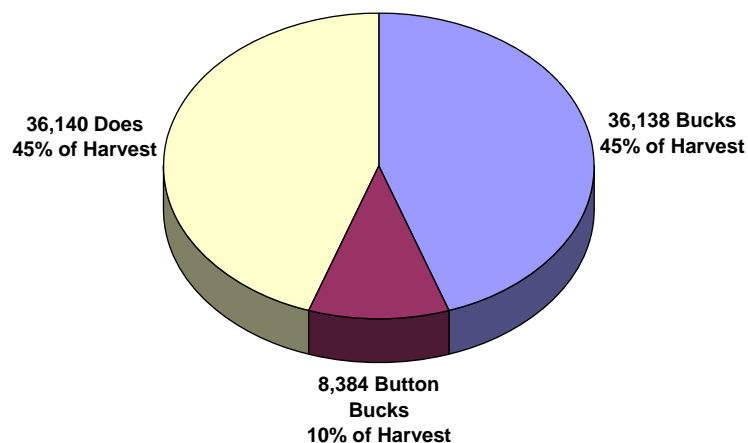


Figure 5. 2007 Firearms season harvest composition

The muzzleloader season harvest of 15,928 comprised 13% of the total harvest, similar to last year (Table 1). This year's muzzleloader harvest was a 1% decrease from the 2006 muzzleloader harvest (16,127). As in years past, a large percentage of the deer harvested during the muzzleloader season were antlerless (80%).

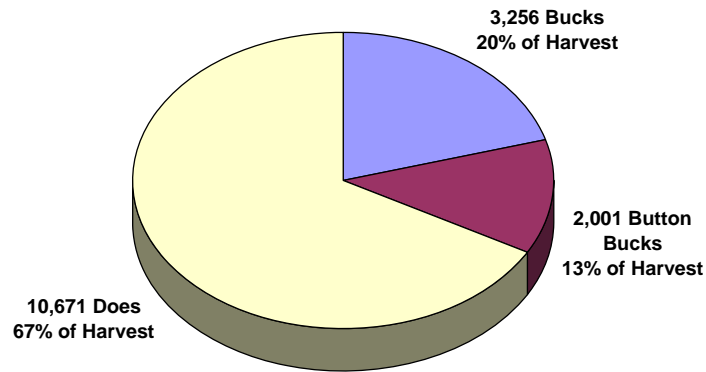


Figure 6. 2007 Muzzleloader season harvest composition

Harvest by Equipment Type

Six types of equipment were legal for hunting deer during 2007: bow, shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun, crossbow, and new for 2007, rifle. Rifle cartridges were restricted to .357 diameter or larger bullet, and case length must be between 1.16 and 1.625 inches. These types of equipment accounted for 21%, 51%, 25%, 1%, <1%, and 1% of the total deer harvest, respectively (Figure 7). Harvest for bow and shotgun decreased 2% and 3.6%, respectively, while harvest by muzzleloader, handgun and crossbow increased 2%, 17%, and 6%, respectively (Table 3). Just over 1,200 deer were harvested with the new rifles, about 1% of the total harvest.

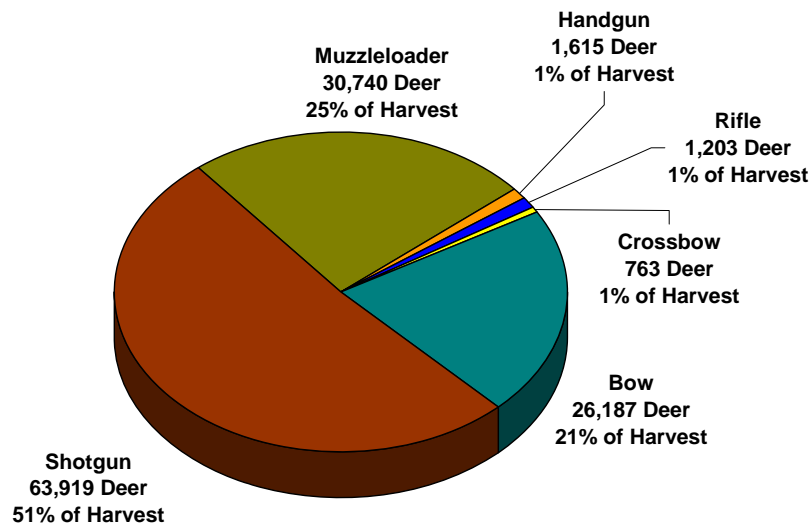


Figure 7. 2007 harvest by equipment type in Indiana

Table 3. Number of deer harvested by type of legal hunting equipment during the 2002-2007 seasons. Approximate percent of total harvest shown in parentheses.

Equipment type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bow*	18,911 (18)	20,748 (19)	21,498 (18)	23,692 (19)	26,723 (21)	26,187 (21)
Shotgun	63,794 (61)	61,674 (58)	71,251 (58)	70,022 (56)	66,304 (53)	63,919 (51)
Muzzleloader	19,711 (19)	22,724 (21)	28,182 (23)	29,686 (24)	30,247 (24)	30,740 (25)
Handgun	1,625 (2)	1,425 (1)	1,620 (1)	1,606 (1)	1,386 (1)	1,615 (1)
Rifle	x	x	x	x	x	1,203 (1)
Crossbow						
Disabled	328 (0)	348 (0)	405(0)	427(0)	591 (0)	609 (0)
Late archery	59 (0)	67 (0)	102 (0)	93 (0)	130 (0)	154 (0)
Totals	104,428	106,986	123,058	125,526	124,562	124,427

* Crossbow harvest is not included in bow harvest. Values within this table do not exactly equal those tallied by season (page 5) due to the fact that multiple equipment types can be used during the firearm season. Muzzleloaders may also be used during both the firearm and muzzleloader season. Additionally, differences arise due to the different methods required to analyze data when either the equipment or the season is unknown.

The total crossbow harvest for the year, including deer taken on disabled hunter crossbow permits, was 763 animals compared with the 721 harvested in 2006. During the late archery season, the crossbow harvest was 154 deer, compared with 130 in 2006 and 93 in 2005 (Table 3).

Harvest by License Status

Licensed resident hunters (lifetime, resident, and youth license holders) accounted for nearly 82% of the total deer harvest (Table 4). Licensed nonresident hunters harvested 2% of the total harvest. Hunters with a regular yearly deer hunting license (resident plus non-resident) took only 43% of the total deer harvest; hunters not paying the full yearly price (i.e. lifetime license holders, youth license holders, landowners/tenants, and military personnel) took nearly 57% of the total harvest. Landowners and lessees who hunted on their own land without a license and military personnel on official leave status accounted for over 16% of the total deer harvest. Of the deer harvested by license-exempt hunters, over 98% were taken by landowners/tenants and 1.2% by military personnel on leave.

Table 4. Harvest distribution of deer by license type during 2007 hunting season.

License Status	Deer Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Resident	51,454	41.35
Lifetime	39,270	31.56
Land Owner	19,789	15.90
Youth	11,114	8.93
Nonresident	2,554	2.05
Military	246	0.20
Total	124,427	99.9

Harvest Age and Sex Structure

The age and sex structure of the 2007 deer harvest was 40% adult males (antlered bucks), 36% adult females, 11% male fawns (button bucks), and 14% female fawns (Table 5). These percentages are nearly identical to the harvest in 2006. About 44% of the antlered bucks and 38% of the adult does harvested during 2007 were yearlings (1.5 years old).

Table 5. Sex and age structure of the Indiana deer harvest during 1987-2007, as determined from mandatory check stations.

Year	Adults		Fawns		Total
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
1987	29,530 (57)	11,139 (21)	6,164 (12)	4,945 (10)	51,778
1988	34,358(57)	13,170 (22)	7,050 (12)	5,656 (10)	60,234
1989	40,503 (51)	19,464 (24)	10,737 (14)	8,614 (11)	79,318
1990	43,080 (48)	23,680 (27)	12,373 (14)	9,630 (11)	88,763
1991	41,593 (42)	31,211 (32)	14,626 (15)	11,253 (11)	98,683
1992	43,508 (46)	25,387 (27)	14,262 (15)	12,157 (13)*	95,314
1993	44,424 (44)	27,704 (27)	14,751 (15)	14,335 (14)*	101,214
1994	50,812 (45)	32,466 (29)	15,487 (14)	13,651 (12)*	112,416
1995	47,098 (40)	40,946 (35)	16,398 (14)	13,287 (11)*	117,729
1996	47,315 (38)	39,913 (32)	17,307 (14)	18,551 (15)*	123,086
1997	42,537 (41)	35,163 (34)	14,039 (13)	13,198 (12)*	104,937
1998	44,955 (45)	30,711 (31)	12,257 (12)	12,538 (12)*	100,461
1999	46,371 (46)	30,474 (31)	11,645 (12)	11,129 (11)*	99,618
2000	44,621 (45)	31,986 (32)	11,072 (11)	11,046 (11)*	98,725
2001	48,357 (47)	31,806 (31)	11,230 (11)	11,770 (11)*	103,163
2002	47,177 (45)	35,357 (34)	11,291 (11)	10,603 (10)*	104,428
2003	49,533 (46)	36,303 (34)	10,262 (10)	10,887 (10)*	106,986
2004	54,743 (44)	41,749 (34)	12,501 (10)	14,065 (11)*	123,058
2005	52,488 (42)	44,286 (35)	13,030 (10)	15,722 (13)*	125,526
2006	49,097 (39)	45,257 (36)	13,688 (11)	17,339 (14)*	125,381
2007	49,375 (40)	44,514 (36)	13,313 (11)	17,225 (14)*	124,427

* Number of adult and fawn females is projected from the % fawns of all females aged at the biological check stations (not from the ratio of fawn doe to fawn bucks in the total deer harvest).

Distribution of the Harvest

The number of deer harvested in individual counties ranged from 134 in Benton County to 3,754 in Steuben County (Table 6). Harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 62 counties; 2,000 deer in 16 counties; and 3,000 deer in three counties. The antlered buck harvest exceeded 1,000 in five counties compared with four in 2006, while the antlerless harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 25 counties compared with 27 in 2006. Antlerless deer comprised at least 50% of the total harvest in 87 of the state's 92 counties in 2007 compared with 89 counties in 2006. The only counties not having 50% of the harvest comprised of antlerless deer were Benton, Boone, Marion, Sullivan, and Tipton counties.

Table 6. Number of deer harvested in each Indiana county during 2007 (after adjustment for unknowns).

County	Number Harvested			County	Number Harvested		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total		Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Adams	185	325	510	Lawrence	764	1,155	1,919
Allen	683	982	1,666	Madison	264	370	634
Bartholomew	522	723	1,245	Marion	184	128	312
Benton	91	43	134	Marshall	987	1,867	2,854
Blackford	133	199	332	Martin	601	850	1,451
Boone	207	197	404	Miami	655	779	1,434
Brown	663	1,136	1,799	Monroe	562	694	1,256
Carroll	338	494	832	Montgomery	464	646	1,110
Cass	607	799	1,405	Morgan	465	755	1,220
Clark	671	991	1,662	Newton	457	598	1,055
Clay	478	651	1,129	Noble	972	1,820	2,792
Clinton	174	187	361	Ohio	348	715	1,063
Crawford	620	918	1,538	Orange	734	1,128	1,861
Daviess	384	799	1,184	Owen	701	740	1,441
Dearborn	943	1,897	2,840	Parke	1,105	1,594	2,698
Decatur	273	283	556	Perry	722	1,057	1,779
DeKalb	873	1,343	2,216	Pike	474	860	1,334
Delaware	309	418	727	Porter	530	745	1,275
Dubois	543	1,056	1,599	Posey	660	804	1,464
Elkhart	561	799	1,359	Pulaski	612	766	1,379
Fayette	299	347	646	Putnam	834	917	1,751
Floyd	241	265	506	Randolph	260	300	559
Fountain	627	828	1,455	Ripley	643	1,026	1,669
Franklin	1,021	1,929	2,950	Rush	145	196	341
Fulton	732	1,314	2,046	St. Joseph	520	739	1,259
Gibson	526	859	1,385	Scott	339	505	843
Grant	340	487	827	Shelby	177	201	378
Greene	809	1,165	1,975	Spencer	521	729	1,251
Hamilton	212	253	465	Starke	581	949	1,530
Hancock	115	177	292	Steuben	1,320	2,434	3,754
Harrison	899	1,450	2,350	Sullivan	830	808	1,638
Hendricks	278	310	588	Switzerland	1,027	2,232	3,259
Henry	219	295	513	Tippecanoe	613	726	1,339
Howard	213	300	512	Tipton	78	58	136
Huntington	479	739	1,218	Union	212	339	551
Jackson	733	1,399	2,132	Vanderburgh	317	408	725
Jasper	588	891	1,478	Vermillion	485	597	1,082
Jay	300	673	973	Vigo	659	690	1,349
Jefferson	750	1,389	2,139	Wabash	702	1,016	1,717
Jennings	604	1,062	1,666	Warren	477	630	1,106
Johnson	237	378	615	Warrick	490	835	1,325
Knox	391	426	818	Washington	925	1,489	2,414
Kosciusko	1,108	1,895	3,003	Wayne	437	554	991
LaGrange	829	1,796	2,624	Wells	245	276	522
Lake	613	685	1,297	White	450	589	1,038
LaPorte	869	1,416	2,285	Whitley	535	773	1,308

* Totals may be off +/- 1 due to rounding during partitioning of harvested deer of unknown sex or county.

An Outbreak of EHD

Indiana, like many other states in 2007, was affected in the late summer and fall by an epizootic of hemorrhagic disease (EHD). The EHDV-2 type struck primarily the southern half of the state, but reports were received throughout the state. In all, 17

counties tested positive for EHDV-2 after sample submission to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Georgia.

An additional 19 counties were suspected of having EHD based on hoof sloughing observed at check stations the opening weekend of firearms season. In all, EHD was reported or confirmed in the free ranging deer herd in 59 counties in Indiana in 2007 (Figure 8). Counties most affected were in the southwestern part of the



Southwest Indiana was most impacted by EHD in 2007 (photo by J. Thompson)

state. Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Perry, Pike, Spencer, and Warrick counties all experienced reduced antlered harvests from 2006 of at least 20%, with Pike County experiencing a 40% decrease, the highest decrease of any county. Though EHD likely accounted for a majority of this decline, it cannot be assumed to be the sole reason. EHD has caused concern among hunters in the areas most affected, but counties most severely affected by the disease in 2006 (Clay, Clinton, Montgomery, Owen, Parke and Putnam) all showed increased antlered harvests in 2007, in most cases back to 2005 harvest levels, indicating that long term impacts from EHD are unlikely at the county level.

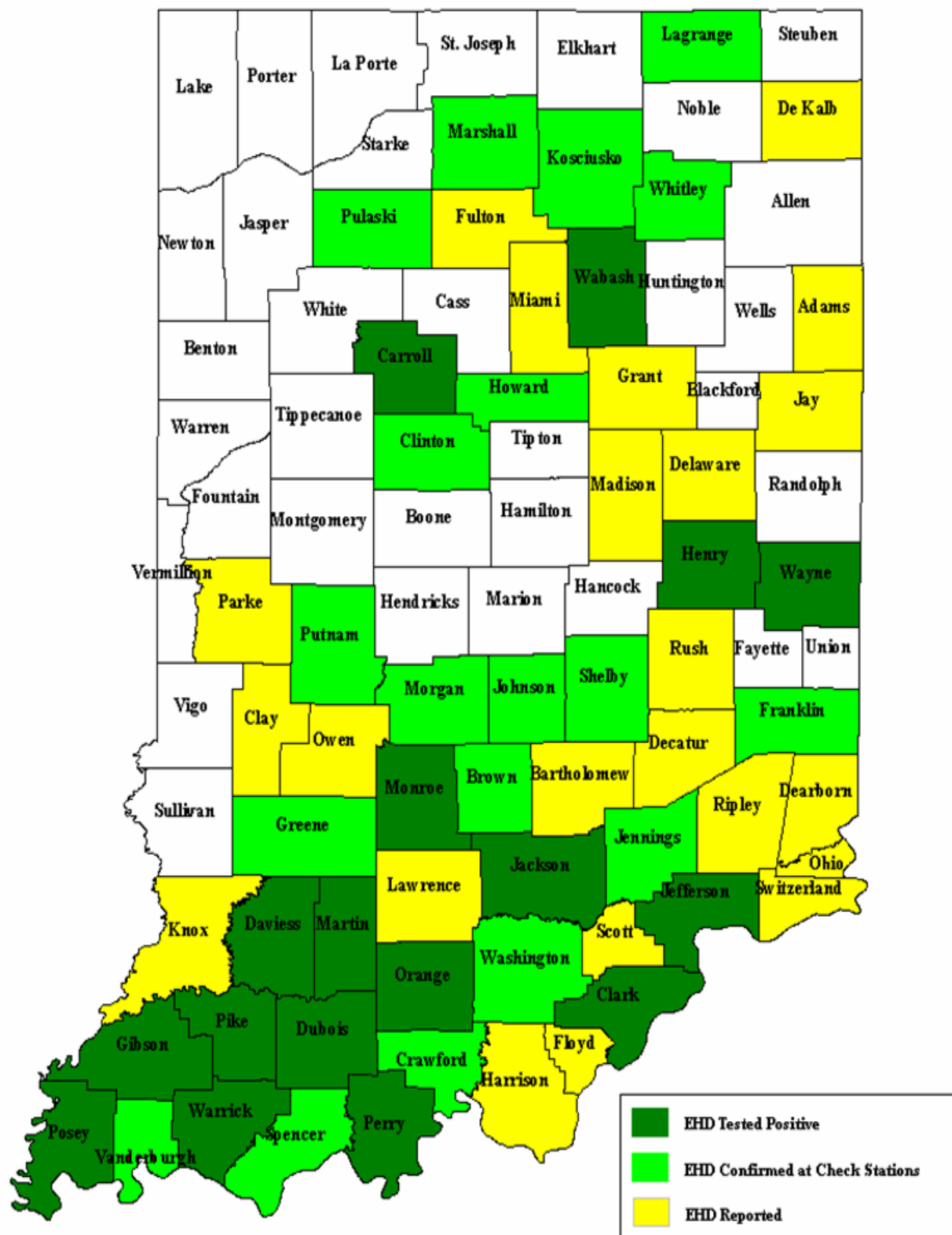


Figure 8. 2007 Status of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease in Indiana